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THE KABUL TIMES

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EC Approves Commercial Complex Construction in Takhar

KABUL: The meeting of the Economic Commission was held on Sunday at the Marmarin Palace under the chairmanship of Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, approving the construction of a commercial complex worth 110 Million Afghanis in Takhar province.
The meeting focused on a draft guideline for the implementation of tax and customs exemptions aimed at encouraging and attracting new domestic and foreign investments in the country, the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs said in a statement on Sunday.
After detailed discussions, a designated committee was tasked to hold technical meetings to further refine the draft and present its final version at the next session of the commission, the statement said.
According to the statement, the seven-story commercial complex will be constructed by the private sector, and is expected to create employment opportunities for dozens of citizens.
In addition, follow-up reports on several pending issues were reviewed, and relevant authorities were instructed to take necessary action, the statement said.The commission's decisions have been submitted to the Office of the Supreme Leader for final approval, the statement added.
The Kabul Times

Health Minister Kicks Off 30-Bed Public Hospital in Maidan Wardak

KABUL: Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, the Minister of Public Health, kicked off the construction work on a 30-bed public hospital in Daimirdad district of Maidan Wardak Province with an investment of 63.8 million Afghanis.
Addressing the kicking off ceremony, Mawlavi Jalali said the project is being implemented under the guidance of the leadership of the Islamic Emirate to expand healthcare services in remote districts across the country, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.
He noted that Daimirdad is among the districts selected for the construction of new health facilities aimed at improving access to quality medical services for residents in underserved areas.
The Kabul Times

Islamic System Safeguards Afghan Values, Independence, Minister

KABUL: Mullah Noorullah Noori, the country's Minister of Borders, Ethnic and Tribal Affairs, has said the Islamic system safeguards the faith, history, freedom, and honor of the Afghan people.
Speaking at a public gathering in Sar-e-Pul Province, Noori said those who had been tested during the past two decades should not claim to represent the cause of a free and independent Afghanistan, RTA reported on Sunday.
He added that public support for the Islamic Emirate is based on religious belief, shared values, culture, and political conviction rather than coercion.
Participants at the gathering also emphasized the importance of strengthening the Islamic system and preserving national unity.
They said attempts to undermine the current system would not gain public acceptance and pledged to protect the country's existing security and reject any external interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.
The Kabul Times

Mawlavi Jamal, Iranian Ambassador Talk Tourism, Cultural Cooperation

KABUL: Mawlavi Qudratullah Jamal, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Tourism, Finance and Administration, in a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Kabul, Alireza Bikdeli, and Iran's Cultural Attaché, Seyed Rouhollah Hosseini, discussed the strengthening of bilateral tourism and cultural cooperation.
The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral tourism cooperation, facilitating travel for tourists, pilgrims, patients, and students, expanding joint cultural programs, and increasing the exchange of visitors through closer coordination, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.
Jamal described Afghanistan and Iran as countries with longstanding friendly relations and stressed the need to improve facilities in tourism, healthcare, education, and transportation for Afghan pilgrims traveling to Karbala.
He also requested Iran's support in organizing scientific and training seminars for instructors at Afghanistan's Tourism and Hotel Management Institute to benefit from the experience of Iranian experts.Meanwhile, Ambassador Bikdeli highlighted the deep religious, cultural, and historical ties between Afghanistan and Iran, reaffirming Tehran's commitment to facilitating tourism and pilgrimage while supporting professional training programs for tourism institute instructors in both countries.
The Kabul Times

Over 45,000 Drug Addicts Treated and Reunited with Families Last Year, Official

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdulwali Haqqani, Deputy Minister of Public Health for Health Services Delivery, said on Sunday that 45,000 people suffering from drug addiction received treatment across Afghanistan during the past year and were reunited with their families after recovery.
Addressing a gathering of anti-narcotics and public awareness, he said that combating drug addiction is a shared responsibility that extends beyond the government, calling on international organizations, relevant institutions, and the wider community to play a more active role in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation efforts, according to a statement from the ministry.
Haqqani also said that more than 4,000 recovered addicts received vocational training during the same period to help them reintegrate into society and improve their employment prospects.
The deputy minister said that anti-narcotics efforts have expanded in recent years, with greater coordination and cooperation established with international partners to strengthen treatment services, rehabilitation programs, and long-term support for recovering addicts.
The Kabul Times

Muttaqi Calls for Long-Term Development Alongside Humanitarian Aid

KABUL: The country's Foreign Minister Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi has called for greater emphasis on long-term development and infrastructure projects alongside the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance.
Muttaqi made the remarks during a meeting with Bruno Lemarquis, the newly appointed Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.
According to the statement, the meeting focused on ways to improve the delivery and management of humanitarian assistance across Afghanistan.
Muttaqi stressed that while humanitarian assistance remains essential, sustainable development and infrastructure projects are equally important for addressing the country's long-term needs. He emphasized that development initiatives can help strengthen communities, improve public services, and create the conditions for lasting economic and social progress.
The foreign minister also reaffirmed the Islamic Emirate's readiness to continue cooperation with the United Nations in areas of mutual interest.Meanwhile, Lemarquis shared his views on enhancing the effectiveness and coordination of aid to ensure it reaches those in need more efficiently.He pledged to work actively in his new role and expressed commitment to expanding engagement and cooperation between the United Nations and Afghanistan across various sectors.
The Kabul Times

Farahi Urges Stronger Support for Books That Promote Intellectual, Cultural Growth

KABUL: Mawlavi Muhajir Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, has called for greater support for books that contribute to society's intellectual, cultural, and scientific development, particularly among young people.
Speaking at a coordination meeting organized by the Copyright Directorate with publishers, booksellers, printing house owners, and authors, Farahi emphasized the important role of quality publications in promoting knowledge, strengthening cultural values, and fostering intellectual development, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.
He urged publishers and printing houses to prioritise publishing books that benefit society and promote learning, while calling on government institutions to procure books from domestic publishers to support Afghanistan's publishing industry.
Farahi also noted that all publishers and printing houses are required to obtain International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) for their publications, adding that the ministry is committed to addressing the concerns of publishers, printers, and booksellers and improving conditions for the country's publishing sector.
The meeting also featured discussions on copyright protection, the rights and responsibilities of authors, translators, and researchers, book marketing, publishing regulations, and the importance of promoting a stronger culture of reading across Afghanistan.
The Kabul Times

Kabul, Bishkek Sign MoU to Establish Joint Business Council

BISHKEK: Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a Joint Business Council aimed at expanding bilateral trade and strengthening economic cooperation.
The country's Embassy in Bishkek said in a statement on Sunday that the MoU seeks to promote direct engagement between business communities, coordinate joint commercial initiatives, and support the development of economic and investment projects.Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mawlawi Abdul Shukoor Haqqani, ambassador of the Islamic Emirate to Kyrgyzstan, said that the Islamic Emirate remains committed to expanding trade relations and encouraging economic initiatives that benefit both countries.He expressed hope that the new council will create additional opportunities for investment, facilitate business cooperation, and contribute to increased trade between Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.
The Kabul Times

Ghazni Hosts Painting Exhibition to Promote Islamic, Afghan Art

KABUL: A three-day painting exhibition titled 'Silent Impression' has opened in Ghazni, bringing together hundreds of artworks aimed at promoting Islamic and Afghan artistic values and encouraging local talent.
The exhibition, organized by Artland Art Gallery and the Ariana Painting Training Center in coordination with the provincial Department of Information and Culture, features 500 paintings created using oil paints and pen techniques, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Sunday.
Officials said art and culture hold a special place in Islam and emphasized the need to promote Islamic art within the framework of Sharia. They noted that the department had recently organized a calligraphy exhibition and plans to hold a larger painting exhibition in the province in the future.Organizers said the exhibition was launched to encourage artists and expand appreciation for painting across the community, describing such events as an important platform for introducing the art form to the public, particularly young enthusiasts.**The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Afghanistan's Future Lies in Unity and Return of Experts

Recent remarks by Shahabuddin Delawar, head of the Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities underscore a reality that Afghans must confront with clarity saying the collapse of the current government would plunge the nation into chaos. His warning is not mere rhetoric; it reflects the fragile balance Afghanistan has achieved after decades of jihad and struggle by the IslamicEmirate. The Islamic Emirate, for all its challenges, has established a system that has no alternative.

The Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities has already facilitated the return of more than 13,000 former officials, granting them immunity cards and reintegrating them into society. This initiative demonstrates that reconciliation is possible, and that Afghanistan's future depends on the participation of its own citizens. Former officials such as Esmatullah Mojaddedi and Mohammad Salim Qayoumi have praised improvements in infrastructure and urged educated Afghans abroad to return and contribute to national development. Their voices highlight a crucial truth that rebuilding Afghanistan requires the skills, talents, and commitment of its people.

Delawar's assertion that Afghanistan has curbed opium exports, a feat no previous government achieved, illustrates the potential of the current system to deliver tangible results. The Islamic Emirate's stance is clear that if this system collapses, the country risks sliding back into instability, corruption, and foreign dependency. The era of past misrule, marked by corruption and exploitation, has ended. Afghans today must seize the opportunity to consolidate sovereignty and ensure that no space remains for those who seek to undermine national progress.

The responsibility now lies with Afghans themselves. Those who left the country during years of conflict should return, not as passive observers but as active participants in reconstruction. The Islamic Emirate has extended amnesty and created pathways for reintegration. This is not merely a political gesture, it is a call for unity, a chance to heal divisions, and a demand for collective responsibility.

Afghanistan's stability cannot be outsourced to foreign powers and the establishment of a military base reflects the dangers of external dependency. True sovereignty means Afghans must rely on their own institutions, their own will, and their own people. The current government, built on the will of the nation, represents this sovereignty. No external force can override the determination of a people who have reclaimed control of their destiny.

The path forward is clear as Afghans must return, unite, and invest their energy in rebuilding their homeland. The Islamic Emirate has laid the foundation, but the nation's prosperity depends on the collective effort of its citizens. The time of corrupt elites has passed. The future belongs to those who choose to serve their country with honesty and dedication.

Afghanistan stands at a crossroads and God forbid collapse would mean crisis, but cooperation promises renewal. The choice is in the hands of Afghans themselves.

Afghanistan; a Shared Home for All Afghans

By: Sayed Sharif

Afghanistan has now become a shared home for all Afghans.

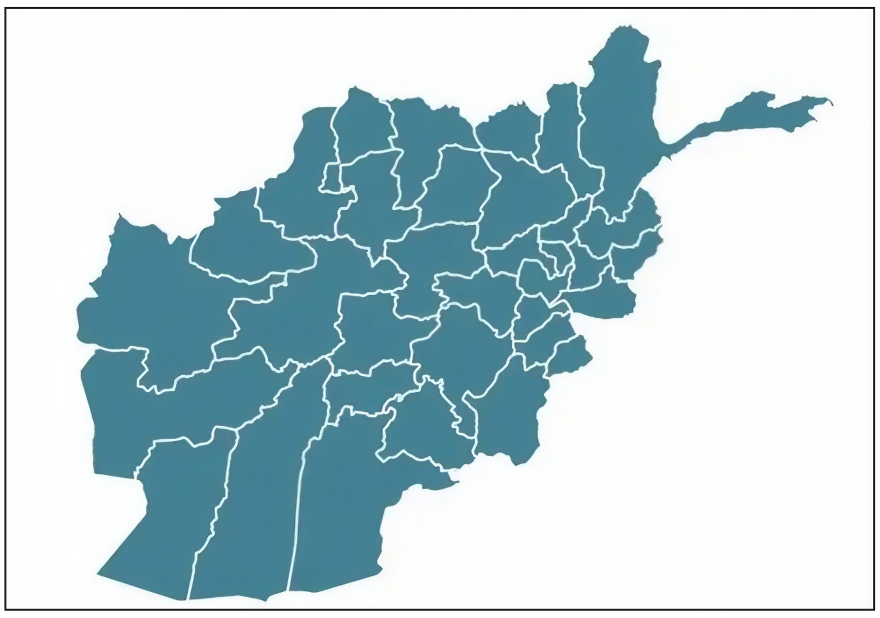
Currently, there are no legal or security obstacles to prevent any Afghans willing to return home. With the Islamic Emirate takeover in mid-August 2021, a general amnesty has been officially announced for former government officials and security personnel. A special commission called the Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities led by Shahabuddin Delawar, the current chief of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, to open channels of communication with former political figures, and senior officials of the previous government who left the country following the Islamic Emirate takeover in mid-August 2021.

During the period, efforts have been made towards maintaining national unity and ensuring lasting stability across Afghanistan.

Today, all Afghans consider Afghanistan as their shared home and those, particularly political figures and security personnel of the previous government, have started returning to their home.

In recent weeks, dozens of officials of the previous government have contacted the Islamic Emirate's Contract Commission and returned home.

This week, the Islamic Emirate's Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities hosted a number of officials of the previous government who have recently returned home. In the meeting, Shahabuddin Delawar, Head of the Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities, spoke about the importance of national unity and called Afghanistan as a shared home for all Afghanistan.



He added that Afghanistan has achieved security, unified governance, brotherhood, and progress for the first time in 47 years under the administration of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA).

Delawar also urged exiled Afghan politicians to return, saying the commission has been established to serve Afghans and address the concerns of returning figures, adding that any legal disputes involving returnees would be handled exclusively through the commission. In the meeting, the returned officials of the previous government said they were happy of improvement of overall security situation across the country, asking those Afghans living abroad to return home and live in peaceful environment. According to officials of the Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities, each Afghan has the right to live in their home in their country as Afghanistan is s shared home for all Afghans. The commission is working within the framework of the nationwide general amnesty announced by the Islamic Emirate following the takeover in 2021, facilitating the return of hundreds of officials of the previous government over the past few years.

The commission issues immunity cards to those who have returned through its mediation and facilitation, which is supposed to serve as an assurance and a guarantee against any arbitrary detention and legal prosecution on the basis of past actions and associations.

Based on the information of the Contact Commission, 13,058 former ministers, deputy ministers, governors, security commanders, and members of parliament have so far returned home and received immunity cards through the commission.

All those officials of the previous government who have returned to Afghanistan in the past few years are happy and have showed satisfaction with the conditions for their return.

They are asking others still abroad to return and take part in reconstruction of their homeland.

It is worth mentioning that former National Security Council advisor Esmatullah Mojaddedi and former deputy minister of education Mohammad Salim Qayoumi, along with other officials of the previous government have recently returned home.

They also call Afghanistan as a shared home for all Afghanistan, adding that the overall security situation has improved across the country, which has provided opportunities for Afghans to take part in reconstruction process of the country.

Afghanistan's Security Transformation: From Decades of Conflict to an Era of Stability

By: S. Naser Watandost

For decades, the people of Afghanistan endured one of the most difficult periods in their modern history. War, insecurity, political instability, foreign intervention, economic hardship, and social uncertainty affected nearly every aspect of daily life. Generations of Afghans grew up amid conflict, witnessing the destruction of infrastructure, the displacement of families, and the loss of opportunities for development and prosperity.

For many citizens, peace remained a distant aspiration rather than a lived reality.

However, with the return of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to power, the country has entered a new phase characterized by a significant reduction in armed conflict and the establishment of nationwide security and political control.

Today, Afghanistan is experiencing a level of territorial security and internal stability that many Afghans regard as unprecedented in recent decades. Across much of the country, people are able to travel, conduct business, and pursue their daily lives with a greater sense of security and peace of mind.

One of the most notable developments in recent years has been the restoration of nationwide security across Afghanistan's provinces and districts.

From the mountainous regions of Badakhshan in the northeast to the deserts of Nimroz in the southwest, from the valleys of Kunar and Nuristan in the east to the northern plains and the western provinces, citizens are now able to travel throughout the country under a single political and administrative authority. Roads that were once considered dangerous due to armed conflict, checkpoints, and insecurity have become accessible to travelers, traders, families, and tourists.

The establishment of nationwide security has had profound social and economic consequences. Families who previously feared traveling between provinces now undertake journeys for recreation, commerce, education, and family visits with greater confidence.

Domestic tourism has experienced remarkable growth, with hundreds of thousands of Afghans visiting the country's historical landmarks, scenic valleys, mountains, rivers, and cultural sites during national and religious holidays. Provinces such as Kunar, Nuristan, Panjshir, Laghman, Kapisa, Bamyan, and Farah have witnessed substantial increases in the number of domestic visitors, reflecting growing public confidence in the country's security environment.

The Islamic Emirate has repeatedly emphasized that ensuring security and maintaining stability are among its primary achievements and responsibilities.

Following the end of large-scale armed conflict, security institutions have focused on maintaining public order, securing transportation routes, preventing criminal activities, and strengthening administrative control throughout the country.

Supporters of the current administration argue that these efforts have created conditions in which ordinary citizens can pursue their livelihoods without the constant fear of violence that characterized previous decades.

For many Afghans, the ability to travel safely from one end of the country to another represents more than a practical improvement; it symbolizes the restoration of national unity and social cohesion.

Today, travelers can journey from Kabul to Herat, from Kandahar to Mazar-e-Sharif, and from Jalalabad to Badakhshan with a degree of confidence that was difficult to imagine during years of conflict.

This renewed sense of security has also encouraged greater interaction among Afghanistan's diverse ethnic, cultural, and regional communities, strengthening feelings of shared national identity.

Beyond physical security, stability has contributed to improvements in economic activity and commercial exchange.

Traders can transport goods across provinces with fewer disruptions, local markets have expanded, and businesses have been able to operate in a more predictable environment. Economic development and security are closely interconnected;

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Girls' Art Exhibition in Ghazni: Security, Faith, and Creativity

By: Romal Sayedi

The three-day exhibition in Ghazni organized by two female artists, Alia Hussaini and Hasni Mohabi, has become a symbolic event in Afghanistan's cultural landscape. Nearly seventy girls participated, presenting more than five hundred works ranging from calligraphy and painting to handicrafts and other visual arts. The exhibition was not merely a display of talent; it was a deliberate effort to connect artistic creativity with the spiritual atmosphere of Muharram, showing how art can carry moral and religious messages while simultaneously promoting women's participation in cultural life.

The organizers emphasized that the market for painting and visual arts is expanding, and their goal is to encourage more women to enter this field, thereby strengthening both individual creativity and collective cultural identity. Young artists such as Adela Ali Zada and Zahra expressed hopes that art would remain free of restrictions and that exhibitions would be organized across provinces, allowing Afghan women to present their work to wider audiences. They also called for stronger markets, both inside Afghanistan and abroad, for handmade artistic products. Their voices highlight the desire of Afghan women to be recognized not only as artists but also as contributors to the country's cultural and economic development.

Officials from the Ghazni Department of Information and Culture, led by Hamidullah Nisar, described the exhibition as an important step in promoting culture and confirmed that more exhibitions will be organized during the year.

This reflects a broader governmental approach: to support women's artistic activities within the framework of Islamic teachings, ensuring that security and freedom are provided in a way that respects religious values.

The government has initiated programs to establish art training centers for girls, encourage handicraft production, and create opportunities for Afghan women's artworks to reach international markets. These initiatives are designed to empower women while maintaining cultural authenticity and moral integrity. The emphasis on security and freedom within religious boundaries is central to the government's vision. By ensuring a safe environment, women can pursue artistic careers without fear, and by grounding these activities in Islamic values, the government seeks to harmonize modern creativity with traditional spirituality.

This balance allows art to flourish as both an aesthetic pursuit and a medium for ethical and social messages.

Programs such as vocational workshops, handicraft cooperatives, and cultural events tied to religious occasions are part of this strategy, aiming to integrate women's artistic contributions into the national identity.

Historically, Ghazni has been a center of art and culture, known for its calligraphy, architecture, and manuscripts. The current revival of artistic activity led by young women is therefore not an isolated phenomenon but a continuation of a long tradition. What distinguishes today's movement is the active participation of women, who are increasingly recognized as vital contributors to Afghanistan's cultural heritage. The exhibition demonstrated that despite challenges, Afghan girls are determined to create, to express, and to connect their work with both local communities and global audiences.

In analytical terms, the Ghazni exhibition illustrates three interconnected dynamics: the growing demand for art in Afghan society, the determination of women to claim space in cultural production, and the government's attempt to support these efforts within a framework of security and religious values.

If these dynamics continue to reinforce one another, Afghanistan could witness a significant expansion of women's role in art, with positive implications for cultural diversity, economic opportunity, and social cohesion.

The exhibition was therefore more than a cultural event; it was a statement about the future of Afghan women, their creativity, and their place in a society that seeks to balance tradition with progress.

Ebola: A Deadly Disease That World Must Never Ignore

By Dr. Bushra Parnian

Ebola is a severe and often life-threatening viral disease caused by the Ebola virus. It spreads through direct contact with the blood, body fluids, or tissues of infected people or animals.

The disease can cause symptoms such as high fever, severe weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, and, in some cases, internal and external bleeding.

Early diagnosis, supportive medical care, and preventive measures are essential to reduce the risk of death and limit the spread of the virus.

Fortunately, scientists and medical professionals have learned a great deal about the disease over the years.

Today, better treatments, vaccines, and public health measures have made it possible to control outbreaks more effectively than before.

Ebola is caused by the Ebola virus, a member of the Filoviridae family.

The disease was first identified in 1976 during two separate outbreaks in Central Africa.

One of these outbreaks occurred near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is how the disease got its name.

Since then, Ebola has appeared in several African countries, with some outbreaks becoming major public health emergencies.

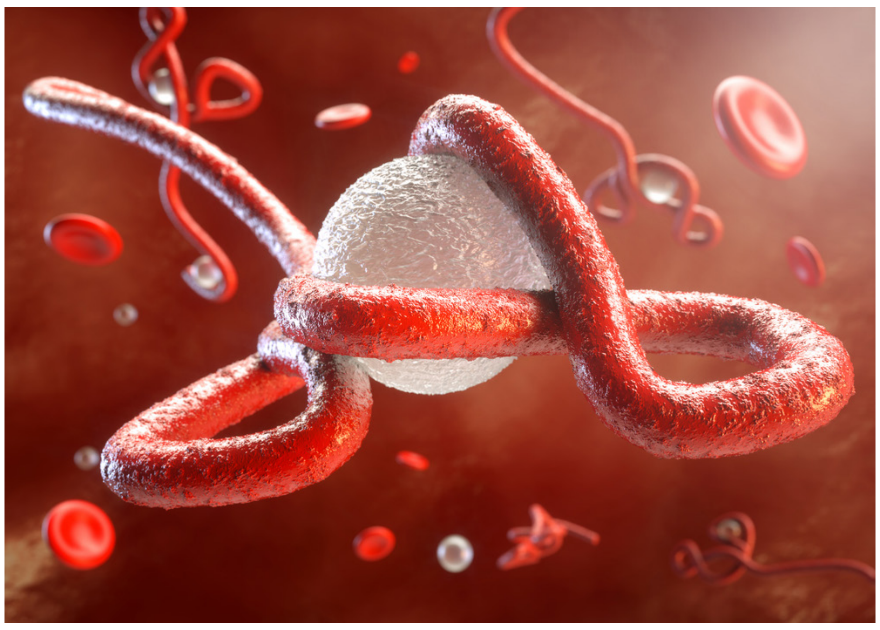
Scientists believe that fruit bats are the natural carriers of the virus.

These animals can carry Ebola without becoming seriously ill. Sometimes the virus spreads from bats to wild animals such as monkeys or chimpanzees.

Humans may become infected after coming into contact with infected animals or by handling their meat.

Once the virus infects a person, it can spread from one individual to another through direct contact with blood or other body fluids.

Unlike diseases such as



influenza, Ebola does not spread through the air. People cannot catch it simply by sitting next to an infected person or breathing the same air. Instead, the virus spreads when infected body fluids enter another person's body through broken skin or the eyes, nose, or mouth.

This is why family members and healthcare workers are at greater risk if they do not use proper protective equipment.

The first signs of Ebola often look similar to many other illnesses.

A person may suddenly develop a high fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, and a sore throat. As the infection becom

es more serious, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and skin rashes may appear. In severe cases, patients may experience internal and external bleeding.

The virus attacks several organs at the same time and weakens the body's immune system, making it difficult to recover without medical care.

One of the biggest challenges with Ebola is that its early symptoms resemble diseases such as malaria or typhoid fever.

For this reason, laboratory testing is necessary to confirm the diagnosis.

Doctors use specialized tests to detect the virus as quickly as possible.

Early diagnosis allows patients to receive treatment sooner and helps prevent the virus from spreading to others.

There is no instant cure for Ebola, but modern medicine has greatly improved patient outcomes.

Treatment mainly focuses on supportive care. Patients receive fluids to prevent dehydration, medications to control symptoms, oxygen if needed, and careful monitoring by healthcare professionals.

In recent years, new antiviral medicines have also shown promising results, especially when given early in the course of the illness.

Vaccination has become one of the greatest achievements in the fight against Ebola. Safe and effective vaccines have been developed and used successfully during recent outbreaks. Vaccinating healthcare workers and people who have been in close contact with infected patients has helped stop the virus from spreading further.

Along with vaccination, public education remains one of the strongest tools for preventing future outbreaks.

Preventing Ebola requires everyone to work together. Healthcare workers must wear gloves, masks, gowns, and face shields while treating patients. Medical equipment must be properly sterilized, and contaminated waste should be handled carefully.

Regular handwashing and avoiding direct contact with infected body fluids are simple but very effective ways to reduce the risk of infection.

Ebola outbreaks affect more than just people's health.

They can damage economies, interrupt education, and create fear within communities.

During large outbreaks, schools may close, businesses lose customers, and hospitals become overwhelmed.

False information can also spread quickly, making people afraid of survivors or reluctant to seek medical care.

This shows why accurate information and community trust are essential during any health emergency.

One of the worst Ebola outbreaks occurred in West Africa between 2014 and 2016.

Thousands of people lost their lives, and healthcare workers from around the world joined local medical teams to control the epidemic.

The outbreak taught valuable lessons about the importance of early detection, international cooperation, and strong healthcare systems.

It also encouraged scientists to develop better treatments and vaccines that continue to save lives today.

People who survive Ebola may continue to experience health problems long after they recover.

Some suffer from joint pain, eye problems, hearing loss, or

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SPORTS

Afghan National Bodybuilding Team Heads to Bhutan for South Asian Championships

Afghanistan's national bodybuilding team has departed for Bhutan to compete in the 16th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, aiming to make a strong impression on the regional stage.

The 18-member squad, made up of some of Afghanistan's most dedicated and talented athletes, left the country with determination and hopes of securing top positions while showcasing the growing potential of Afghan bodybuilding.A farewell ceremony was held by the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports to honor the team's departure. During the event, Director General Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq met with the athletes and encouraged them to compete with confidence, strong determination, and national pride. He reminded the team that they represent not only themselves but also the hopes and expectations of Afghan sports fans.

The ceremony concluded with prayers for the athletes' health, safety, and success in the competition.

The championship, which brings together athletes from eight South Asian countries, is expected to be highly competitive. The event will begin on June 29 and continue until July 3.

For the Afghan athletes, the competition is more than just a sporting event; it is an opportunity to demonstrate their hard work, discipline, and commitment on an international platform. After months of intensive training, the team hopes to deliver strong performances and raise Afghanistan's flag high in Bhutan.

The Kabul Times

Afghan Wushu Athlete Shahzada Safi Wins Silver Medal at Asian Championships

Afghan wushu athlete Shahzada Safi has secured a silver medal at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Asian Championships, delivering a strong performance on the international stage.

Competing in the 56kg weight category, Safi displayed impressive skills and determination throughout the tournament.

He defeated opponents from Kazakhstan and Hong Kong in successive bouts, advancing to the final and earning Afghanistan a place among the top performers of the competition.

Safi is now preparing for the gold medal match, where he will face a Chinese opponent in a highly anticipated final. His achievement has raised hopes for another successful result as he aims to bring home Afghanistan's first-place honor.

The SCO Asian Championships are being hosted by China with the participation of athletes from 18 countries.

The event began on June 26 and will continue until June 29, bringing together talented competitors from across Asia in various sports disciplines.

Afghanistan is represented by a six-member team at the tournament.

Safi's success highlights the growing presence of Afghan athletes in international competitions and serves as an inspiration for young sports talents across the country.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan Futsal National Team Selection Camp Begins in Kabul

The selection camp for Afghanistan's national futsal team has officially started in Kabul, bringing together 80 talented players from across the country. The camp is being organized by the Futsal Committee of the Afghanistan Football Federation under the supervision of newly appointed national futsal head coach Dejan Dedovic.The opening ceremony was attended by officials from Afghanistan's sports sector, including General Director of Physical Education and Sports Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq, technical deputy of the sports administration and football federation Hafiz Ahmad Jan Zadran, Afghanistan Football Federation President Mohammad Yousuf Kargar, and members of the federation's leadership.Addressing the players, Wasiq described Afghan athletes as role models for the nation and expressed hope that the futsal team would continue to proudly represent Afghanistan in future international competitions. He also called on the team's management to provide athletes with the necessary facilities and support, emphasizing that the sports administration remains committed to assisting Afghan athletes.The 25-day selection camp will be held in different provinces of the country. At the end of the process, the best-performing players will be selected to join Afghanistan's top-level futsal squads, marking an important step toward strengthening the national team. **The Kabul Times**

Drought Affected 3.4 Million People Across 12 Afghan Provinces, OCHA

KABUL: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement the other day that drought has affected 3.4 million people across 12 provinces of Afghanistan in 2025, raising concerns over worsening water shortages and livelihoods.According to OCHA, a significant decline in groundwater levels has placed severe pressure on many households, making access to water increasingly difficult and threatening agricultural production and income sources.

Although parts of Afghanistan received seasonal rainfall this year, the UN agency warned that many regions continue to face declining water resources and the growing impacts of climate change.

OCHA stressed that prolonged drought and water scarcity remain major humanitarian challenges, underscoring the need for sustained support to vulnerable communities and measures to strengthen resilience against future climate-related shocks.

The Kabul Times

Work Begins on 20-Kilometer Road Project in Paktika

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Works said in a statement on Sunday that construction work started on a 20-kilometer strategic road connecting the Argun district to the Rabat area of Sarobi district in Paktika Province.The project, implemented under a design-build contract valued at 560 million Afghanis, is expected to be completed within 22 months, the statement said.The road will play a key role in improving regional connectivity, easing transportation challenges, and strengthening access between six districts of the province, the statement said.Once completed, the road will provide a vital link toward the Angoor Ada border crossing with Pakistan, enhancing cross-border trade, transit movement, and broader economic activity in the region.The Ministry described the project as part of ongoing efforts to expand Afghanistan's transportation infrastructure and support economic development in remote provinces.

The Kabul Times

National Domestic Products Exhibition Opens in Baghlan

KABUL: A national exhibition of domestic products and local industries was held in Baghlan province with the aim of promoting Afghan-made goods, supporting handicrafts, strengthening market access, encouraging investors, and boosting overall economic development in the country, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said in a statement on Sunday.

The exhibition was opened by Baghlan Governor Haji Mullah Abdullah Mukhtar, in the presence of provincial officials, including Haji Qari Mohammad Naeem Hamkar, Head of Industry and Commerce, along with local authorities, traders, industrialists, and representatives of domestic and international organizations, the statement said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mullah Mukhtar stated that such exhibitions are not only platforms for showcasing products but also important opportunities for economic growth, expansion of domestic production, job creation, and stronger support for local producers.

He further emphasized that Baghlan is one of the country's key provinces in agriculture, industry, trade, and natural resources, noting that its fertile lands, water resources, mineral wealth, and agro-processing potential can play a significant role in Afghanistan's economic development.

He confirmed that the exhibition features products from various sectors across 85 booths and will continue for three days, providing a platform for producers and entrepreneurs to connect with markets and buyers.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan's Security Transformation...

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without stability, investment, trade, and long-term planning become difficult.

Consequently, the restoration of security has created opportunities for broader economic recovery and development initiatives.

The implementation of a unified administrative and legal framework throughout the country has also contributed to a sense of order and predictability.

According to supporters of the Islamic Emirate, the application of Islamic law and governance principles has strengthened public confidence in state institutions and reinforced social stability.

They argue that the establishment of a single authority, operating under one system, one flag, and one leadership structure, has reduced political fragmentation and contributed to greater national cohesion.

At the same time, Afghanistan continues to face numerous challenges, including economic constraints, humanitarian needs, international diplomatic complexities, and the ongoing task of rebuilding institutions and infrastructure after decades of conflict. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts, effective governance, economic development, educational advancement, and constructive engagement with regional and international partners.

Nevertheless, many Afghans view the current security environment as a historic opportunity to rebuild their country after decades of war.

The restoration of peace and stability has created conditions in which citizens can focus on education, commerce, agriculture, infrastructure development, and social progress rather than survival and conflict.

This shift represents a significant transformation in the country's national priorities.

The people of Afghanistan have demonstrated remarkable resilience throughout their history. Despite decades of hardship, they have maintained their cultural identity, religious values, and aspirations for peace and prosperity. Today, many citizens express strong support for preserving the stability that has been achieved and remain determined not to allow their country to return to the cycles of violence and instability that characterized much of the recent past.

Moreover, the current generation of Afghans has witnessed both the devastating consequences of prolonged conflict and the benefits that accompany peace and security.

This experience has strengthened public awareness of the importance of national unity, social harmony, and political stability.

Many Afghans believe that safeguarding these achievements requires collective responsibility, vigilance, and continued commitment to peace.

Afghanistan's journey toward lasting stability remains a work in progress. Yet, the establishment of nationwide security has provided a foundation upon which future economic growth, social development, educational advancement, and national prosperity can be built. The ability of citizens to travel safely from one corner of the country to another, conduct business freely, visit family members, and enjoy the country's natural beauty without fear represents an important milestone in Afghanistan's contemporary history.

As Afghanistan moves forward, preserving security, strengthening institutions, promoting economic development, and maintaining social cohesion will remain essential priorities.

For many Afghans, the peace and stability experienced today are not merely political achievements but long-awaited aspirations realized after decades of sacrifice and hardship.

They view these gains as precious national accomplishments that must be protected and strengthened for future generations, ensuring that Afghanistan continues its path toward peace, stability, and national progress.

Ebola: A Deadly Disease That...

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ongoing fatigue. Others may experience emotional stress after surviving such a serious illness. Medical care and psychological support are important to help survivors return to normal life and overcome these long-term challenges.In conclusion, Ebola remains one of the world's most serious viral diseases, but it is no longer an impossible challenge. Scientific research, improved medical care, effective vaccines, and greater public awareness have significantly reduced the impact of recent outbreaks. Although the virus is dangerous, communities can protect themselves by following good hygiene practices, seeking medical care early, supporting vaccination programs, and trusting reliable health information. Working together is the best way to prevent future outbreaks and protect lives around the world.